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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1905.

General Miles and Mrs. Davis.

In the current issue of The Independent General Nelson A. Miles publishes an article in which he defends himself against the charge that he maltreated President Jefferson Davis during the term of his imprisonment at Fortress Monroe. He begins by saying that "during the great Civil War from 1861 to 1865, that was waged with greater intensity and ferocity than any other of modern times, it is well known that certain plots were formed against the person or life of President Lincoln. On the night of April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was assassinated and a desperate effort made to take the life of Secretary of State Seward, and the assassination of the Vice-President and General Grant was also contemplated by the conspirators who formed the plot to destroy the heads of the government. Fortunately, General Grant was absent in Baltimore on that fatal night. The actual assassinations were to be committed by a few insignificant and obscure men, who could have had no motive in such a fiendish conspiracy."

Herein is an implication that President Davis concocted the plot, otherwise why should General Miles say that "the actual assassinations were to be committed by a few insignificant and obscure men, who could have had no motive in such a fiendish conspiracy." As if to make it more clear that he had such a thought in his mind when he wrote he proceeds to quote from the proclamation of President Andrew Johnson as follows:

"Whereas, it appears from evidence in the bureau of military justice that the atrocious murder of the late President Abraham Lincoln and the attempted assassination of the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, were intended, conceived and procured by and between Jefferson Davis, late of Richmond, Va., and Jacob Thompson, Clement C. Clay, Beverly Tucker, George N. Sanders, William C. Cleary and other rebels and traitors against the government of the United States harbored in Canada, now, therefore, etc."

This was the preamble to the famous proclamation of May 2, 1865, concluding with the offer of a reward for the arrest of the persons named.

General Miles then proceeds to say that Mr. Davis did not surrender when Richmond was captured, but was hunted down and caught near Irwinville, Ga., and sent to Fortress Monroe, to await trial on the charge of complicity in the assassination of Lincoln. In this introductory, General Miles proves too much. He emphasizes that when he received Mr. Davis as a prisoner he received him as a rebel, a traitor and an assassin. Yet, he would make it appear that he treated this rebel, traitor and assassin with the greatest courtesy, kindness and consideration.

He next quotes from the order of General Halleck authorizing him to take any additional precautions, which he might deem necessary for the security of his prisoner, and again from an order of C. A. Dana, Secretary of State, "authorizing and directing" him to place manacles and fetters upon the hands and feet of Davis and Clay whenever he might think it advisable, in order to render their imprisonment more secure. General Miles also says that notification was sent to the officials at Fortress Monroe of several plots which were formed to effect the escape or rescue of Mr. Davis, and that they were directed to take every precaution to prevent it. Naturally, these precautions were to keep a strong military guard in the fort and another around the cell in which Mr. Davis was confined, all of which was done. But General Miles went farther and without any order from his superiors, but acting upon his own motion, put his prisoner in irons. There was no justification, and Mrs. Davis declares that her husband was treated by General Miles with the greatest indignity, and that she herself was treated with discourtesy. To offset that charge, General Miles reproduces a letter received from Mrs. Davis on May 22, 1865, in which she said: "Please receive my thanks for your courtesy and kind answers to my questions of this morning. I cannot quit the harbor without begging you again to look after my husband's health for me."

This was the letter of a Southern lady and it will be noted that she thanks him simply for his "courtesy and kind answers" to her questions of to-day. Mrs. Davis has lived for years at the North and has made many friends among the Northern people. There is no bitterness in her heart against the people of that section, but time has changed her attitude towards the man who humiliated her husband by putting upon him the

mark of a common criminal. Of the note which she wrote to General Miles, she says that she has no recollection of it, but that while ignorant of the facts, or in hopeful recognition of some improvement in the treatment inflicted upon her husband, she may have made some acknowledgment of what may have been construed as common humanity at a time when, had she known the facts, she never could, or would, have written save in indignant protest. Of General Miles himself she says:

"Forty years have passed since General Miles perpetrated the cruelties for which he is now undergoing some measure of punishment at the hands of his own people. During that period he has now passed to the grave. The publication of the instructions, under which he claims to have acted, and the correspondence which led up to them, have long since convinced every candid mind that his treatment of Mr. Davis was gratuitous, neither justified nor required by the orders of his superiors."

"It has long since conclusively appeared that he invited authority to do what he knew to be unnecessary and cruel, and that he perverted the instructions which he did receive into a license to suffer upon a prisoner overwhelmed by misfortune and in the agony of physical pain."

The whole case is now before the public, and the verdict will not be changed by the long delayed explanation which General Miles has at last seen fit to make.

The South's Hospitality.

The Columbia State strangely misconstrues an expression recently used in these columns, "The South for Southerners."

"We do not believe," it says, "that we should withdraw into our shell, declaring all other sections inferior to our own and giving vent to our pride in a bombastic 'The South for Southerners.' We have been an isolated 'peculiar,' a provincial people long enough. The South is not for Southerners alone. The South is for everybody. We are not a section apart. We are of the nation. We have the possibilities of being the best part of the nation. And, unless we mistake the spirit of the times, the South is ready to offer hearty welcome to every honest and industrious person who wishes to join hands with us in carving the South's future. When they come, then we can go forward and offer them the plate of hot biscuits which is the custom of those to the manner born."

Of course, we did not mean to say that the South should shut out desirable settlers, and it is surprising that any such construction should have been placed upon the expression. The South is a prosperous section, and needs settlers, needs good workmen and progressive men in all walks of life, and invites them to come in and help her build up and share in the prosperity which she is enjoying, and which will be greater hereafter. The plain meaning of the expression is that Southerners should remain in the South, and for reasons more than one. First of all, we believe that Southerners are happier in their own land, and among their own kith and kin than they can be in other sections. We have ways peculiar to ourselves; we love and enjoy them and we miss the sweet courtesies and hospitalities of Southern life when we go away. Besides all this, the South is an inviting field for exploitation; it is rich in resources; it is undeveloped; it is growing richer every day, and, generally speaking, we believe that our young men will do better to remain in the South than to cast their fortunes with other sections. The South is undoubtedly the place for men from other sections of the United States and from the whole world who like a genial climate, a genial people and a promising field in which to buy and sell and get gain. The South is the place for Southerners—and for Northerners, too.

Fact is, our half-humorous dissertations on "hot biscuits" have been taken too seriously. We have simply indulged in a little brag about Southern customs and manners, which we have, but with no intention, of course, to be offensive to our friends at the North—least of all, to Northerners who have come here to live. Let us have peace.

Mayo's Bridge and Island.

The Times-Dispatch is heartily in favor of a new free bridge between Manchester and Richmond, and we hope that the Council will see its way to join with Manchester in purchasing Mayo's bridge and erecting a commodious structure in its place. What would be a fair price for the bridge we are in no position to say. But a reasonable offer should not be rejected simply because two cities would not receive sufficient revenue to pay interest on the debt. If enough revenue can be derived from this source to take care of the interest on the bonds and the sinking fund, so much the better; but it is to be remembered that the city is not supposed to purchase this bridge for the purpose of making money out of it, but in order to make it a free bridge. The day of toll bridges is past; all the avenues to Richmond and Manchester should be wide open, and it is clearly in the interest of progress for them to get possession of this old toll bridge and make it free.

We hope that satisfactory terms can be had, and while at it, would it not be well for the city to purchase Mayo's Island, as proposed by Mr. Mills, if that can be had at a reasonable price? With a new free bridge, the value of Mayo's Island would be greatly enhanced, and it would be a most desirable property for Richmond to own. If the city does not purchase it, it may be taken up by individuals and converted into an undesirable resort; if the city does purchase it, it will make a splendid park, with public baths and other attractions.

There may be objections of which we are not aware, but with the lights before us, it seems desirable for the city to own the island, if it joins with Manchester in purchasing the bridge.

Doctored Cider.
The Council of Williamsburg has determined to stop the sale of poisonous cider in that town. Richmond should also see to it that no poisonous cider is sold here. The Virginia statute provides that "every person selling or exposing to sale any cider which is composed of nothing but pure apple juice and such ingredients as

may be necessary to preserve same, shall label or brand his or her cider conspicuously by the buyer, each and every barrel, cask, keg, or other vessel of whatever kind in which the same is kept or from which it is sold or otherwise disposed, with the words 'pure apple cider.' "Every person selling or exposing to sale any cider which is not composed of pure apple juice and such ingredients as may be necessary to preserve it, shall label or brand his or her cider conspicuously by the buyer each and every barrel, cask, keg, or other vessel of whatever kind in which it is kept or from which it is sold or otherwise disposed, with the words 'chemical cider.' "Any person violating the provisions of the foregoing sections, or either of them, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty dollars nor more than fifty dollars."

The intent of this statute is plain enough, but there is one fatal defect. The clause, "and such ingredients as may be necessary to preserve same," opens the way to all sorts of adulteration. When the next Legislature meets the law should be amended. But, in the meantime, the authorities should be themselves and see whether or not "chemical cider" is masquerading here as pure cider. Tests should be made, especially with the view to ascertaining whether or not beverages sold under the name of cider contain poisonous or any hurtful ingredient. Human life and health are too precious to be trifled with.

Virginia's Loss.

The destruction early yesterday morning of the Science Hall at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, is a distinct loss to the entire State. "The fortunes of so many youths of Virginia, of the present and of the future, are so dependent upon the teachings and influence of this most useful institution of practical learning that whatever affects it is felt throughout the State. The Times-Dispatch greatly regrets the fire, because it means even a slight check in the great work going on; but not for one moment does it doubt that the loss is more than temporary. Safe it is to predict that a better building will take its place, and even more complete scientific apparatus will shortly be installed. All praise for the brave young men who tumbled out of bed and fought fire with the cool-headedness of veterans and the courage and fortitude of soldiers.

Washington city has paid in something like \$65,000 to give the President a good inauguration send off. After March 4th the President will have to look out for his own frocks, and he will be pretty apt to do it.

Senator Teller has promises that he will talk the statehood bill to death, when the opportunity presents itself. It is generally conceded that on this kind of proposition he is fully able to make good.

The man who invented the cake-walk died without ever "taking the cake," just as the writer of "Home, Sweet Home," ran his course without finding an earthly habitation.

The young King of Spain has tried the old systems of finding a wife. Now let him try the want ad. column, sometimes used to more or less advantage in free America.

The State of Kansas and the Standard Oil Company propose to fight to a greasy finish, which means that of one or the other, only a grease spot will be left.

The heirs of General Lew Wallace, who left an estate valued at \$500,000, are justified in maintaining that the pen is mightier than the sword.

The death of an author, if he is a good author, renews interest in his good work. "Ben Hur" is selling to-day as rapidly as it sold twenty years ago.

Midshipman Arrowood has discovered that the navy and religion don't go well together. He has not patented his discovery. It is nothing new.

Spring shad and Florida strawberries are now racing for first place on the yearly market. It might be well if both should get sidetracked.

What with the recent arrivals of Bat Masterson and the dino saur, New York appears to be getting downright swollen-headed.

Some people maintain that the phrase "conduct unbecoming a member of the legislature" is a plain contradiction in terms.

Doctors Wilhelm, I. R., and Roosevelt officially share the czar's sorrows. Well, the czar has enough to go around.

Russia intimates that she is entirely satisfied with Kuropatkin as a leader. So, we take it, is Japan.

The backbone of old winter is at last beginning to require the assistance of a porous plaster.

Stoessel will reach Russian headquarters in good time to keep up a St. Petersburg interest.

Minnesota senators are at least safe. That State has recently abolished grand juries.

A Northerner's Protest.
Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—In your article, "Southern Manners," in Saturday's issue, you reproduce the charge made by "One of the Detested Yankees" of having insulted Northern residents in Virginia by your comment in a recent article entitled "Two Views of Hot Biscuits," and "Request Specifications," and promise that, "if the offending correspondent will point out any word or

phrase which is wantonly insulting to Northerners," you "will make a full and complete retraction, and apologize." I am surprised that you should attempt to deny what is so plainly written, not in a foreign language, but in good plain English, and to claim that he who runs may read.

"There is none so blind as he who will not see," therefore, if you are a hopeless task or made of you to show you wherein lay the insult, there has never yet been a case where the insult is let for the one who receives it. In the first place, I (and others with me) think that you expect that we will be "insulted" by your "well-meaning" and "unjust" letter was a most kindly one, and contained nothing to offend. Any one who can read English and understand the meaning of the reference to the difference in customs between small villages and cities. Your tirade against him was uncalled for, and with only a tame "amende honorable." You are shocked and "amused" at such a "revelation" and "insult" and say anything (shocking) until you discover that he has lived in the North. All that explains it all! What could you expect but revulsion from one who has lived in the North? 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